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THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE JURY SYSTEM. By MAXIMUS A. LESSER, A. M., of the New York Bar. Rochester, N. Y.: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co. 1894.

The author in his preface has rightly described this work when he says that his claim for consideration is based rather on "originality of treatment and presentation of materials at hand than on originality of research." The book is a careful compilation of the opinions of other writers on the different subjects treated, with copious and well selected extracts from their works. The work may be divided into two parts; first, a description of the institutions providing for the trial of the facts of a cause in other systems of jurisprudence; and secondly, a history of the jury system as developed in England from a combination of Norman ideas of administration and the character of a judge, with the old Anglo-Saxon procedure. Thus Chapter II is a description of the Dekarts of Greece, consisting in the main of extracts from GROTE'S HISTORY, and Chapter III treats of the Judices of Rome. When we come to the second part, or history of the jury proper, the extracts from Forsyth naturally increase, in fact Mr. LESSER follows in the main the arrangement and endorses practically all the opinions of that learned author.

There are one or two statements by the author, or rather statements cited by him with approval, that would bear some modification. For instance, is it correct to say that Roman judicial procedure was to a great extent derived from and formed by that of Athens, see p. 29; or that King Alfred restored the hundred in England, p. 40. It is true in the last case that the first mention we find of the hundred in England is in the laws of Alfred, but the very irregularity of the boundaries of the hundred, and its subsequent importance seem to indicate not only its prior existence, but that the king simply adapted to his own purposes a living institution.

W. D. L.